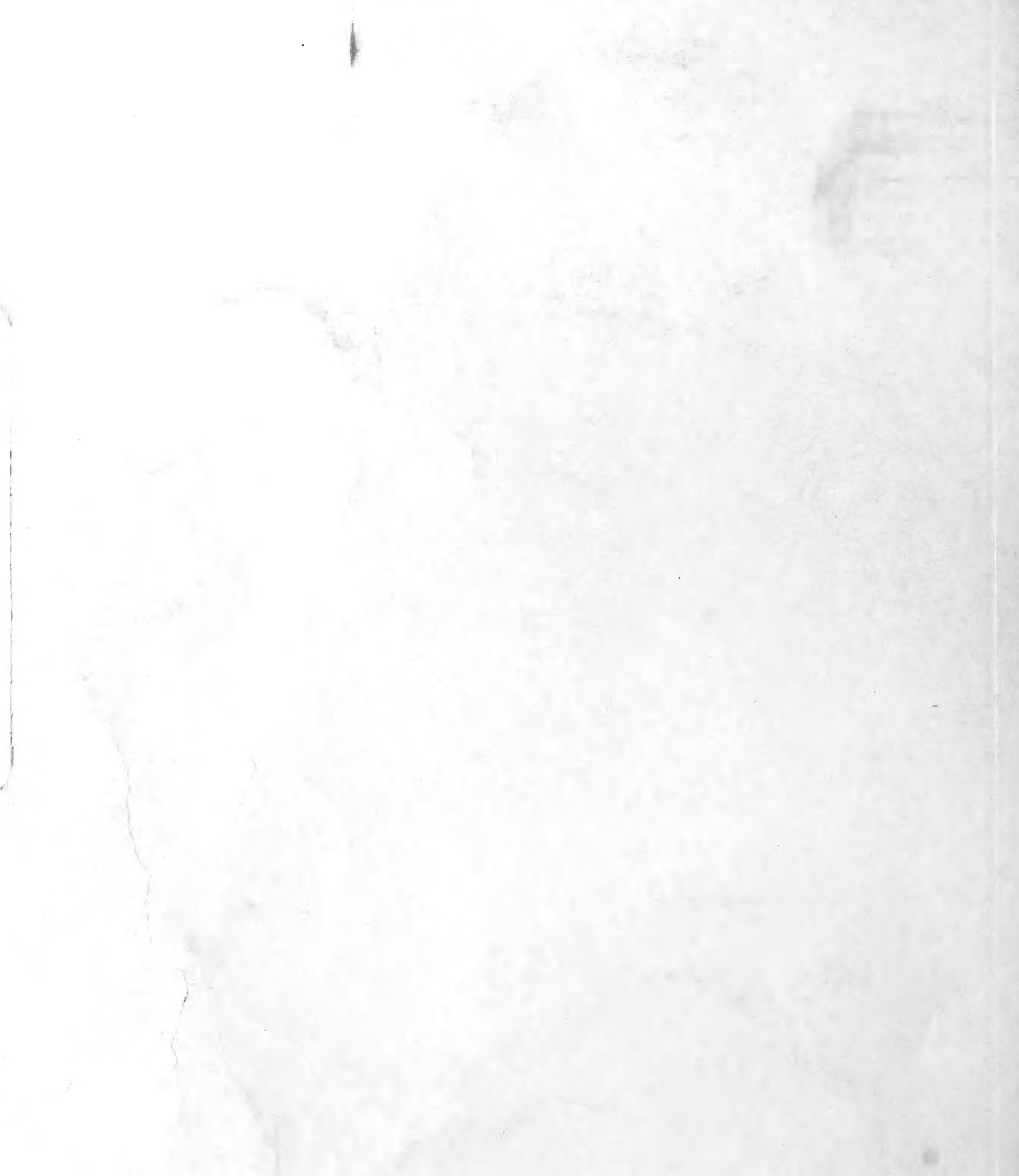


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The
**WASHINGTON
NATIONAL
FOREST**



*A Vista
in the
Cascades*



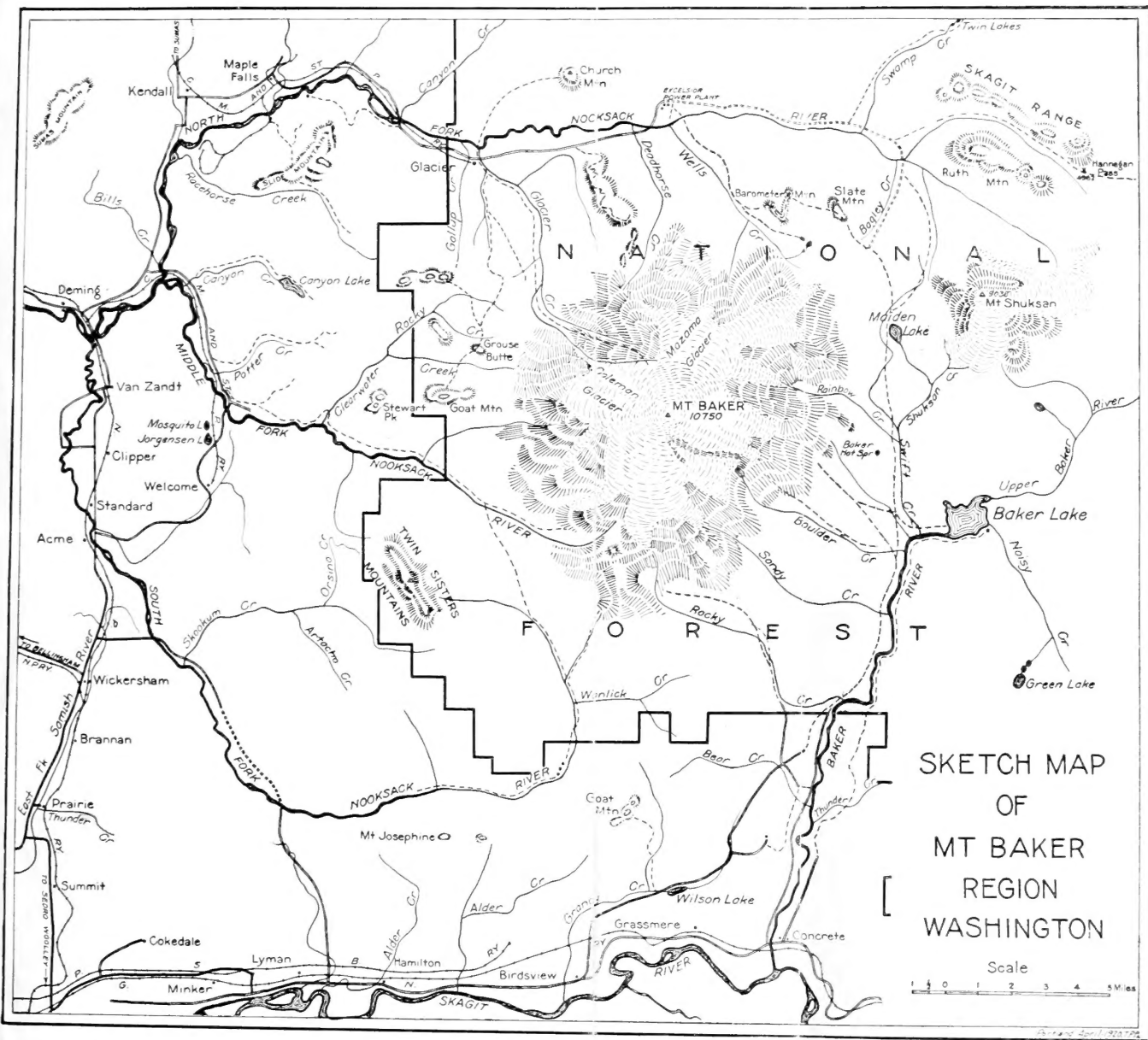
**A
MOUNTAIN
VACATION
LAND**



**BE CAREFUL
WITH FIRE**



PREVENT FOREST FIRES



SKETCH MAP
OF
MT BAKER
REGION
WASHINGTON

Scale

1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Mount Baker may be approached on three sides. Those wishing to reach its summit had best go in by way of De ning, although it can also be climbed on the north and south sides.

KEEP THE FORESTS GREEN

Contribution from the Forest Service
William B. Greeley, Forester

The Washington National Forest



IN the extreme northwestern part of the United States, overlooking the restless waters of Puget Sound, which, driven by the tides of the Pacific, race backward and forward amid a constellation of beautiful islands, lies an untamed mountain wilderness—one of the few remaining strongholds of Nature. There in the Washington National Forest one may lose himself for weeks in the hills and give himself up to the full enjoyment of Nature.



"Race backward and forward amid a constellation of beautiful islands"

The Mount Baker Region

The outstanding features of the Washington National Forest are Mount Baker, unsurpassed throughout the entire Cascade Range for the magnificence and variety of its glacial formations, and the gently rolling stretches of verdant mountain meadow which blanket the summit of the divide in the Upper Skagit River region. Between them unfolds a vast uplifted wilderness, a wide-flung advance of snow-clad peaks, dotted with mirror-like lakes and separated by narrow shoe-string valleys whose sides

are gashed with narrow canyons cut by sparkling cataracts.

The excessive rainfall of the Pacific slope nourishes a dense plant and forest growth. There are few open places below an elevation of 4,500 feet, and the thick



"Between them unfolds a vast uplifted wilderness"

undergrowth, together with the roughness of the country, renders travel very difficult where there are no trails. Perhaps one-third of the northern half of the Washington Forest is above timber line. On the whole it is a richly watered region, and one singularly free from venomous insects or reptiles which might mar the enjoyment of the tourist.

There are no roads within the Washington Forest as yet. Its beauty spots are reached by trail only. It appeals to those who seek the recreational frontier. The voice of this Forest is the cry of Nature calling man from



"Gently rolling stretches of verdant mountain meadows"

the common life to some of the realities of its sterner existence. It invites the tourist, but warns him not to come dressed in his parlor clothes.

Mount Baker, the "Koma Kulshan" of the Indians, known to early Spanish navigators but named by Capt.

Washington National Forest

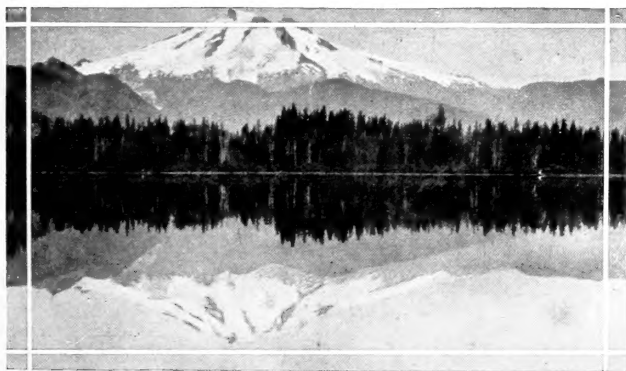
Vancouver, is a practically extinct volcano 10,730 feet in height. It was first ascended by the Coleman party in 1869. The mountain is incrustated with snow and ice, surrounded by green meadows, a region of irresistible interest to the mountaineer, geologist, botanist, and nature lover. Faint sulphur fumes still rise from the crater.



Mount Baker

Mount Baker may be ascended on three sides. The climbing season runs from July 15 to September 30, August being the best month.

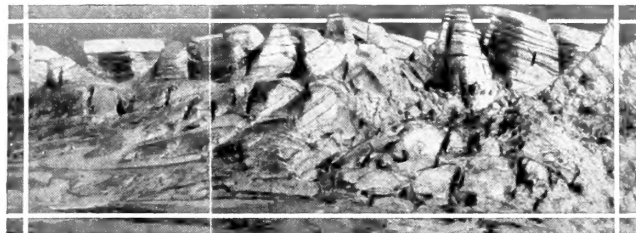
From Glacier, on the north side, which is reached in 2 hours via automobile road from Bellingham, a trail leads to Heliotrope Ridge, 10 miles distant. This is a grassy divide of about 3 acres which thrusts itself into the heart of Roosevelt Glacier, with the great white dome of the mountain towering above. The summit can be reached from this point.



"Across it on a summer evening is cast a perfect likeness of the great mountain"

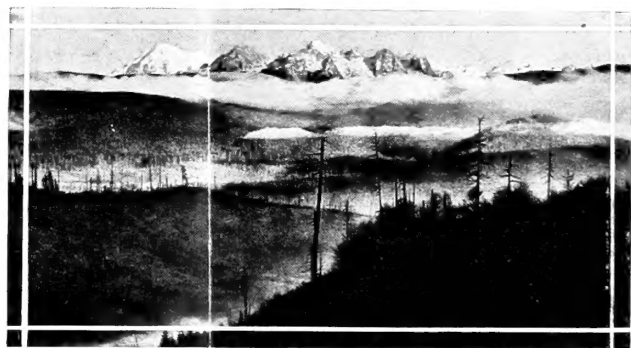
The road extends 7 miles east of Glacier to the Nooksack Falls power plant, where the river forms a cataract more than 100 feet high.

At the Three-Mile board a trail ascends to Sky Line Ridge, 6,500 feet in elevation, where it is lost in the rolling meadows, dotted with clumps of alpine fir which shield the tents of the campers.



Formations resembling cliff dwellings on the slopes of Mount Baker

Farther to the east of Nooksack Falls, 10 miles by trail, is Austin Pass, lying midway between Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan. The latter has been termed the most picturesque peak in America, while Table Mountain, at the gateway of the Chain Lakes region, is a striking formation. The scenic revel which the traveler beholds from Austin Pass will soon be made accessible by an automobile road from Glacier.



Mount Baker and the Twin Sisters

Many prefer to ascend Mount Baker from the west side at Mazama Park. Here there is a cabin shelter free to visitors, and the round trip to the summit can be made in from 8 to 12 hours. Easton and Deming Glaciers are

A Mountain Vacation Land

within easy walking distance from Mazama Park. There is a good automobile road from Deming to Heisler Ranch, from which point Mazama Park is distant 16 miles by trail.

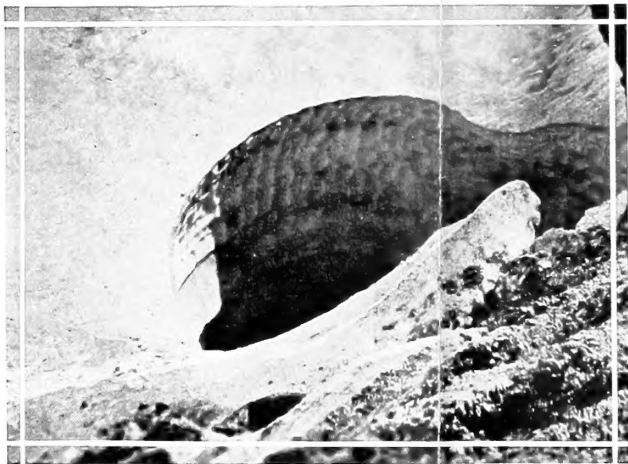


Crevasse on Mount Baker

The east side of Mount Baker is accessible from Concrete, but owing to the long distance by trail, few people ascend from this point.

Baker Lake, which has the largest sockeye salmon hatchery in the United States, is 17 miles above Concrete. Across it on a summer evening is cast a perfect likeness of the great mountain.

Five miles to the northwest is the Baker Hot Spring, a sulphurous flow boiling from the subterranean depths of the distant crater, at a temperature of 112° F. This spring is hidden beneath the shadow of great trees and



Looking into the crater of Mount Baker

has been improved by the construction of an open swimming pool.

There are at present no commercial organizations handling the tourist business to Mount Baker. Pack horses are available to make any of the trips above mentioned, but persons contemplating them would do well to make inquiries in advance.

Only experienced mountaineers should attempt to reach the summit of Mount Baker without a guide. The climb from Mazama Park is not a hard one, and mixed parties of 25 or 30 have made the ascent. Guides can be secured at Deming, Glacier, or Concrete, and would-be



Table Mountain, at the gateway of the Chain Lakes region, is a striking formation

climbers should plan to spend a week in the vicinity of the mountain to allow for possible cloudy days.

The Upper Skagit Country

The Upper Skagit River country offers attractions of a different type. Here is a paradise for the angler, the main river and its tributaries abounding in Dolly Varden, rainbow, and cutthroat trout, which may be taken in season.

Ruby Creek and its headwaters near the summit of the Cascades is a mineralized district, a storied land of early placer discoveries, lost mines, and mythical veins. It contains the ruins of many abandoned camps, water-

Washington National Forest

works, and stamp mills, while the mountain side is pierced by frequent tunnels. Future transportation may bring to this district another season of prosperity.

The mountain meadows along the summit of the Cascade Range present a broad expanse of rolling grassland dotted with timber clumps, easily traveled on horseback, and a charming spot in which to spend a fall vacation. It is a rich grazing ground for several bands of sheep which graze under Forest Service regulation, coming in from the east side of the mountains.



The foaming waters race through the chasm below

There are road houses farther up the river at the mouths of Bacon, Goodell, Stetattle and Ruby Creeks, where meals and lodging can be obtained.

From the end of the wagon road to the mouth of Ruby Creek tourists must traverse the "Goat Trail," so named after the manner in which it skirts the face of the cliffs high up on the mountain side, with the foaming waters racing through the chasm below. At the Devils Elbow a notch has been blasted out of the solid face of the rock.

Just below Ruby Creek the canyon narrows to a width of less than 10 feet, with overhanging walls 150 feet high, through which the water surges into a great rock-walled pool.



Thunder Creek suspension bridge

The best fishing is found in the main river, Big Beaver Creek below the falls, Lightning Creek, Devils Creek, and Ruby Creek, and he is a poor disciple of Izaak Walton indeed who can not bring home the legal limit.

The valley of the Skagit is comparatively wide above Ruby Creek, and there are many delightful camping places along the river. A trip to Jack Mountain Meadows is well worth while, for it commands a magnificent view of the valley and the barrier of rocky and snow-capped peaks which hem it in.

All the main watersheds are traversed by trails with signboards to indicate the distance traveled and intersecting points of interest. Substantial bridges have been thrown across the larger streams. At intervals along the main trails camping shelters have been built

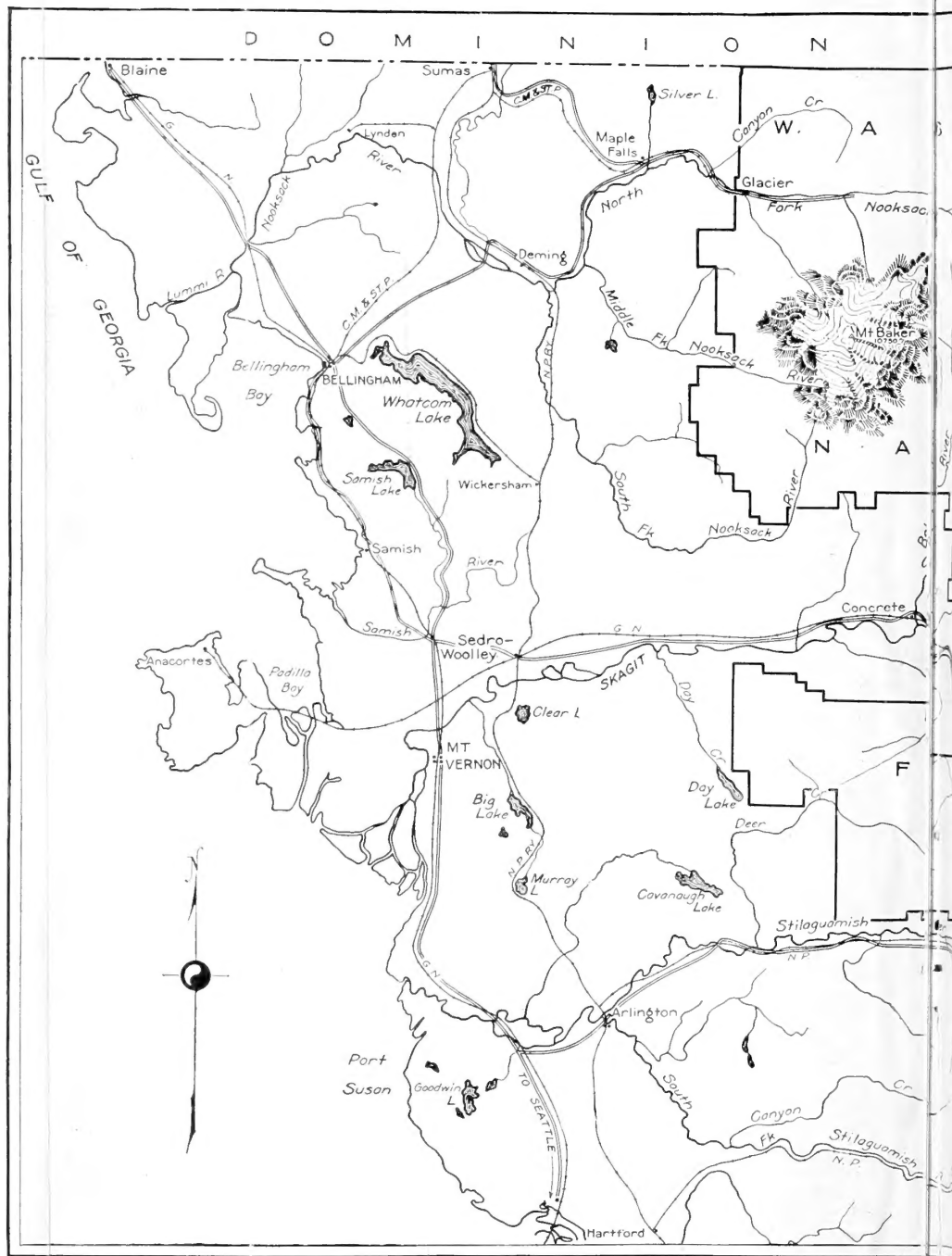


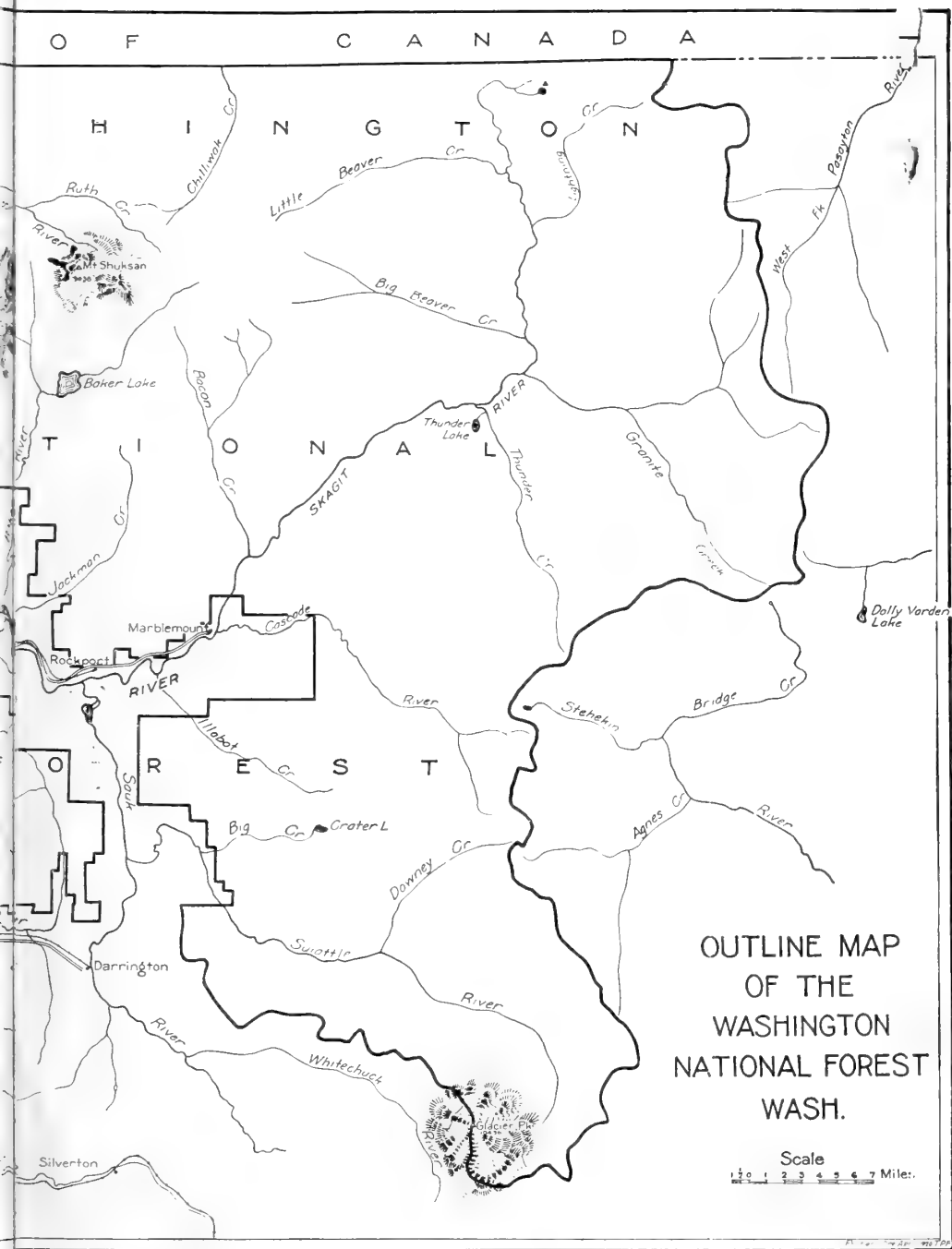
Lakes fringed with alpine firs

to accommodate from 6 to 12 people, equipped with fireplaces, tables, and with running water nearby.

Nestling in the folds of the mountains at high elevations are many tiny lakes fringed with alpine firs. Twin Lakes, lying in Twin Lakes Pass, 7 miles from Shuksan by trail, surrounded by grassy meadows and

The Washington National Forest covers one million four hundred and ninety thousand acres lying on the west slope of the Cascade Mountains overlooking Puget Sound directly south of the international boundary in northwestern Washington.

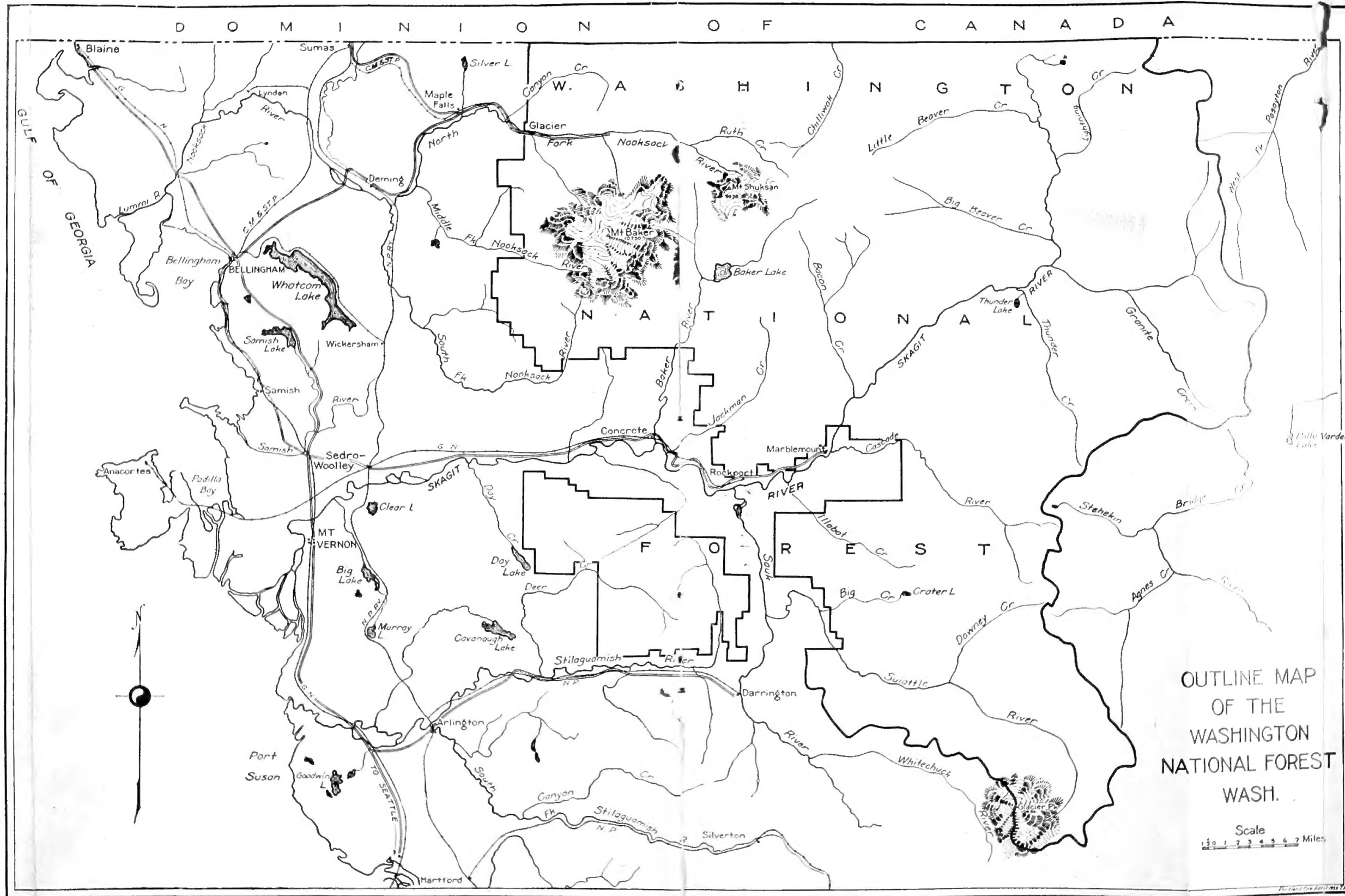




The freedom of the mountains and the wilderness, good hunting and fishing, and pleasant camping places make the Washington National Forest ideal country for a vacation. Go where you like and stay as long as you please. Be careful with fire.



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The freedom of the mountains and the wilderness, good hunting and fishing, and pleasant camping places make the Washington National Forest ideal country for a vacation. Go where you like and stay as long as you please. Be careful with fire.

commanding a wonderful view of the surrounding country, have most delightful camping places on their shores.



Typical mountain goat country. This "stairway" has been used for centuries as a highway over the mountain. The path worn by the goats is from 10 to 12 feet wide

Wild Life

The Washington Forest abounds in wild life. Among the larger animals are the cougar, wildcat, marmot, black-tailed deer, black bear, and mountain goat.



Ruffed grouse

Bird life is represented by the sooty or blue grouse, Oregon ruffed grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, American osprey, golden eagle, and bald eagle. The chief fur-bearing animals are beaver, marten, lynx, fisher, and otter. In the streams are found Dolly Varden or bull trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and in the smaller clear streams a variety of the rainbow known as the black-spotted

trout. In addition to these native fish, Lake Chelan trout have been planted in some of the smaller lakes.

That portion of Whatcom County inside the Washington Forest has been set aside as a game preserve in which the hunting of game animals, i. e., bear, deer, and mountain goat, is prohibited for a period of five years, ending September 1, 1924. However, the State game laws do not prohibit hunting with a camera.

Shorter Fishing Trips

The Washington Forest offers many opportunities for short fishing trips. The South Fork of the Nooksack is a particularly favored spot for a 5-day outing. This trip should be made by way of Deming.

The mouth of Illabot Creek is reached by automobile, after crossing the Skagit River at Rockport, and there is fine sport here, as well as in Illabot Lake 10 miles upstream.



Mountain goat



A typical mountain lake

There is fairly good fishing in Finney Creek, which may be reached from Sauk over a 5-mile trail.

Fishing within the main Skagit River and its tributaries below Goodell Creek is not good.

Dolly Varden and rainbow trout and whitefish are found in Baker Lake, but on the whole the streams in



Camping party in the Upper Skagit River country

this watershed, owing to glacial water, do not offer a strong attraction to the angler.

The Suiattle River and its tributaries are splendid streams very little fished owing to the difficulty of getting across the Sauk River. The Forest Service has a rowboat here, and frequently arrangements can be made with forest officers for a crossing.



Park Creek Pass—a mighty notch, with Storm King and Logan Peak towering on either side

Fishing in the North Fork of the Nooksack and its tributaries east of Glacier is not so good. However, the streams here are being stocked and will be right in a few years.

The Mountain Portals

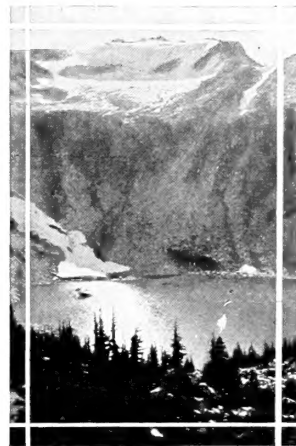
Along the summit of the Cascades are many picturesque mountain passes, the gateways into western Washington.

By far the most striking is Park Creek Pass, at the head of Thunder Creek, resembling a great notch cut by the hand of a giant, with Storm King and Logan Peak towering aloft on either side.

The Lake Chelan country may also be reached by way of Cascade Pass, which is the most direct route. Persons desiring to make this trip can secure provisions at Rockport and comfortably make the journey on foot from Marblemount to Lake Chelan in four days. Lost Lake basin just beyond Cascade Pass is a formation of fascinating beauty.

The longest intermountain journey through the Washington Forest, however, is by way of Slate Creek Pass at the head of Ruby Creek, which leads into the Okanogan Valley country. Here the tourist is well repaid for his time and energy, as the route passes through the Skagit River canyon and through a mountain meadow country of unsurpassing beauty.

The trails leading to all these passes are in first-class condition, but they are usually free from snow on the summit only between July 1 and October 31. Late seasons are frequent, however, and tourists will do well to secure definite information from the forest supervisor before undertaking an intermountain trip early in July or late in October.



Mirror Lake

Keep the Forest Green

The Washington National Forest is essentially a timber reservoir. It holds a portion of the future supply which, because of remoteness, has been little logged as yet. At present its recreational resource is perhaps of greatest interest to the average citizen, who is invited to come and enjoy that resource to the utmost. At the same time he is cautioned to be careful always with fire. There has been no devastating blaze for a long time. Each year sees the forest greener than it was before. No small part of this favorable condition is due to the cooperation of the public. Such cooperation is appreciated. Forest field officers will gladly render tourists all assistance compatible with the performance of their duties, and they hope that visitors will in turn lighten the burden of those duties as much as possible during the fire season by thoughtfulness in the many little things which go to prevent the escape of fire. A good motto for the camper is:

LEAVE A DEAD FIRE AND A CLEAN CAMP



"The woods were God's first temples." Tiny crosses tip the points of spired alpine firs

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